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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1908.

PRIMARY HAS COME TO STAY.

In his third article on the primary, which we print to-day, Mr. Machen specifies the disadvantages which naturally result from lack of legal safeguards around those elections. The dangers of corruption are very great under the present system—but even thus the primary comes much nearer to representing the will of the people than the ward or precinct meeting ever did. Take the recent case of Oregon for example. There eighteen laws were submitted to the people besides the question of choosing a Senator. The Legislature provided pamphlets containing the proposed laws and a discussion of them, and sent one book to each voter. In addition the papers performed the valuable and usual public function of discussing the issues fully—both as partisans and judges. As a result the interest of the whole State was awakened. The power and privilege of the right of suffrage were exalted. And above all else a higher ideal of the rights and duties of citizenship were inculcated. What if some bitterness were stirred up by the heat of the campaign? Isn't it worth while to have a few feelings hurt if the standard of citizenship for a whole State is thereby raised?

A DEPLORABLE DECISION.

The action of the Council in refusing to place both the Water Works and the City Engineer's Department under the control and direction of City Engineer C. E. Bolling will be generally deplored. As a business proposition it cannot be doubted that economy and efficiency of service both would point to the consolidation which the Council refused to make. Mr. Bolling is admittedly one of the leading experts among the hydraulic engineers of America. His training and his experience also mark him as the proper choice for City Engineer. With proper assistants Mr. Bolling is absolutely competent to handle both of these departments, and by his control he would prevent the loss of energy and the waste of effort that has been painfully apparent heretofore.

While Mr. Davis will certainly give the department his very best effort, he has not shown in the past the capacity for leadership or the executive ability which the management of the Water Works demands. By failing to consolidate these two departments the Council has deliberately thrown away a chance to improve greatly the efficiency of administration of the city without adding to the cost. The time will come sooner or later when Richmond, either through a Council or a commission, will insist upon stopping the waste of energy involved in the present system. It is deeply to be regretted that the Council did not hasten that day, as it could have done by maintaining Mr. Bolling as the head of the Engineering and Water Departments.

GOOD SIGNS.

When the United States Steel Corporation declared that it would not under any conditions lower the prices of its product, despite dull trade and lack demand, because it had declined to increase the prices when everything was on a boom, The Times-Dispatch said that the world would wait with interest the struggle of even this giant corporation against economic laws. In the ordinary course of trade, as the price goes down, the inevitable effect is to increase the demand, and so trade revives again. By holding its price rigidly in the face of great falling off in building and railroad construction the Steel Corporation brought about a deadlock. Now, however, if the prices are reasonably reduced the immediate effect ought to be a revival of construction with all that is implied in re-employment of men and restoration of normal conditions.

WHY AT THE VICE-PRESIDENCY.

The reluctance shown by so many contemporary statesmen to accept the candidacy for Vice-President is not easy to understand. Is it possible these gentlemen think the office to be one of slight importance or one which to accept would appear a condescension on their part?

John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Aaron Burr, John C. Calhoun, Martin Van Buren, John Tyler and Theodore Roosevelt have deemed it a sufficient honor for their by no means inconsiderable talent.

Men of a distinction inferior only to that attained by these eminent names have filled the office without loss to their dignity or abatement of esteem.

There would be no derogation to the merit of any one now prominent in the councils of either the Democratic or Republican party to preside over the Senate of the United States. And do not the possibilities of power that the misfortunes of life attach to the office—the inability, resignation, removal or death of the President—possess a consequence to awe the confidence or satisfy the ambition of the stoutest?

The possibility of becoming President of the United States should be a thought sobering to the uttermost one's sense of responsibility. Out of the twenty-six men that have occupied the presidential chair five were Vice-Presidents, who became Chief Magistrate through the death of the President.

It is therefore an interesting question: Is the unwillingness of these latter-day statesmen to be elected Vice-President due to an opinion that it will entail a sacrifice of their services or to a forgetfulness of history?

Rhymes for To-Day

THE S. B. G.

MUCH have we heard of the golden rule, sweet girl, you need have no doubt. All that is sung of you makes me doubt. But it is this that I'm worried about: Where, oh, where is the sweet boy grand?

Colleges everywhere over the land—Cornell's, Columbias, Harvards, Yales—Nothing but called on the stand? What has become of our blooming maids? Are we waiting of just co-eds? That is a thought too sad—too sad! Printer, set this line in double-lead: Where, oh, where, is the sweet boy grand?

Editors favor this with your gaze, Preachers, hew ye and hew to the line. Poets, have done with your idle lays, Thinkers, think on this thought of mine! Nothing's so sweet as a sweet girl grand; That is as patent as patent can be—But . . . it is this that is driving me mad: What has become of the s. b. g.?

H. S. H.

MERELY JOKING.

Overdoing the thing. "I shall I call again with this bill, Mr. Ardup." "I think, young man, as a concession to the conventionalists, you had better not return at least one of your calls."—Chicago Tribune.

Almost the Same Thing.

"Will my husband live, doctor?" "Well, madame, if he doesn't he'll come mighty close to it."—Judge.

Born That Way.

Horace: "Some men are like perfect fools when they are in love." "Yes, and a great many more do not wait even for that excuse."—Pick-Me-Up.

Most Confused.

Miss Broadway: "They say he married her because of her figure." Mr. Madison: "Well, that was quite natural."

Out of Order.

Mr. Cannon was in an automobile merrily breaking the speed guidance. "Stop, Speaker!" "What?" "You're driving on the wrong side of the road."—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Beat Peary to It.

"So you discovered the North Pole?" "No, but I found out that Peary lied."—Nashville American.

After the Times-Dispatch.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch allusion to the "Havener" strawberry plantation. We suppose it is some kind of rash, largely aggravated by the Virginia rebuffs.—Houston Post.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch is worried because the world's supply of coal will last only for 200 years. It is a little unfortunate if it is able to postpone all of its coal worry for 200 years.—Washington Herald.

CHEAPER HOMES.

On the 9th of April the Chamber of Commerce discussed the problem of arranging for the growing negro population. At that time The Times-Dispatch said, "For the welfare of the colored race and for the benefit of those who depend upon colored labor, to say nothing of the consequent improvement of health of the whole community, it is most important that a location be found adapted for the growing needs of this class."

Following this suggestion the Chamber of Commerce held a meeting and fully discussed this important question. The whole matter was referred to Messrs. J. Scott Parrish, chairman; E. L. Benkins, Joseph Bryan, G. R. Cannon, John C. Hagan and T. C. Williams, Jr., committee on manufactures, and Messrs. C. G. Bosher, chairman; Dr. Paulus A. Irving, Dr. George Ben Johnston, Dr. Stuart McGuire, D. R. Midyette and John C. Walker, committee on health and sanitation, with instructions to take the matter up with the proper city authorities.

As this question is vital to the proper development of our city, it would be very interesting to know what report, if any, these gentlemen have to make, and how far they have progressed in their negotiations with the City Council.

RUDYARD KIPLING SAYS THAT.

"The naked phrase is the power which makes or unmakes the kingdoms and the world." That kind of phrase is beyond most of us, but doubtless even the peckabout article can accomplish something.

The suggestion that the words of "Dixie" be changed is extremely ill-advised. Why don't the repeaters devote their energies to changing the United States Constitution, Magna Charta and comparatively unimportant institutions of that sort?

Meanwhile, in the fuss and feathers about Bryan and Taft, a very large proportion of the electorate appears disposed to forget the fact that Thomas E. Watson and Eugene V. Debs are now running for the presidency.

It is said that Mr. Bryan does not like baseball. It should go further now and confess to a fondness for croquet. It is hard to see how anything could keep the Commoner out of the hands of a receiver.

True, they have discovered a girl in Boston with six distinct personalities, but what of it? As long as she does not eat the groceries for six, there should be no kick coming.

"Is sleep a habit?" asks the Louisville Courier-Journal. Not where the upstairs flat keeps roller-skates and a graphophone.

Still, It Will Doubtless Take Frank H. Hitchcock Some Months Yet to Get them to Naming Nickel Cigars after Him.

The rumor that Senator Aldrich's favorite expression to a friend was indignantly scoffed at by John Sharp Williams.

The Houston Post's query as to the genuine of end-seat-hog will be studiously ignored by all married members of the Paragraphers' Union.

STATE PRESS

Little But Old Glory Left.

In the army the pull is mightier than the sword. It is no wonder that conditions in the military service, as described by Chairman Hall of the House Military Committee, are "desperate."

It is not a secret that a major and soon afterwards lieutenant-colonel in violation of the rule of promotion by seniority and merit, has been promoted to the rank of captain in the regular army, in violation of the rule of the same rule. General Wood for being a chum of the President was raised over the heads of the army for civil life. The private soldiers are already deserting by scores.—Suffolk Herald.

Far Sighted. It seems to us that all of the editors of the Democratic newspapers in the United States could not have failed to see many years ago that the man who was named William Jennings Bryan was bound to be the nominee of the Democratic convention for the presidency. It was only a matter of time before him which they made was supplying the Republicans with ammunition to use against him. It is not a secret that the same time providing large dishes of crow for the digestion of such of them as propose to lead the army for civil life. The private soldiers are already deserting by scores.—Suffolk Herald.

Good Ancestry. Aside from this, it has been entirely manifest for some time to those who have closely watched the proceedings of county non-moralizing in dealing with the State convention that there exists nothing like a formidable public sentiment in behalf of a return to the old convention method. The situation thus presented is encouraging, and augurs well for the continued and complete supremacy of the Democratic party in State and local government.—Lynchburg Times.

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Primary Elections

BY LEWIS H. MACHEN.

Necessity of Legalizing Them.

In two preceding articles it has been shown how nominating systems in this country, from crude and irregular beginnings, have undergone an evolution and have attained a growth which demonstrates the advantages of primary elections over every other method of making nominations. The final step in this evolution has occurred in many of the States, and it has placed primaries upon a purely legal basis, and surrounded them with the same sanctions and safeguards that apply to general elections. That step has not yet been taken in Virginia, but it is believed that the sentiment of the masses of the Democratic party in the State is overwhelmingly in that direction.

If the Roanoke convention is responsive to this sentiment it will call the primary at its next meeting.

The theory upon which a State may provide for a legal primary is that the great majority of the officers chosen by popular vote to serve the State must first be nominated by the party.

In most sections of the State the nomination is equivalent to an election, and the primary, and not the regular election, is what decides who these officers shall be. The whole State, therefore, and members of all parties have an interest in the nomination of its men by a proper method.

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Checked Muslin, 8-12c value, only 5c.

White Madras, 26 inches wide; 12 1/2c value, 10c.

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India Linen, 10 inches wide; 12 1/2c value, 10c.

Mercerized Poplin, 25c value, 12 1/2c.

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Linen-Finish Suitings, 36 inches wide; 12c value, 10c.

French Lawns, double widths; 25c value, 10c.

Overdressed Batiste, 13c value, 12 1/2c.

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